President.—The question time is over. The Law Member may move that the Bill to amend the Court of Wards Regulation, as amended by the Council, may be taken up and passed.

A Bill to amend the Cochin Court of Wards Regulation.

Mr. K. Achyuta Menon.—Sir, I beg to move that the Bill to amend the Cochin Court of Wards Regulation, as amended, be taken up and passed.

Mr. T. K. Krishna Menon.—I second it.

The question that the Bill to amend the Cochin Court of Wards Regulation be taken up and passed was put to vote and carried.

A Bill to amend the Cochin Nayar Regulation.

President.—Mr. A. Eachara Menon will move the Bill to amend the Cochin Nayar Regulation.

Mr. A. Eachara Menon.—I move that the Bill to amend the Cochin Nayar Regulation, as amended, be passed.

Mr. N. Padmanabha Menon.—I second it.

The question that the Bill to amend the Cochin Nayar Regulation be taken up and passed was put to vote and carried.

President.—The next item is Voting of Demands for Supplementary Grants.

The Transaction of Offic il business on a non-official day.

Mr. C. A. Kunjunni Raja.—A point of order, Sir. The Secretary in his letter, dated 18th March 1927, states that the first 2 days of the sitting are allowed for official business and the remaining three days for non-official business. Under the Standing Orders, on days allotted for non-official business, non-official business has to be given precedence.

President.—Government business shall have precedence at all other times. I don't follow the position. What is that?

Mr. C. A. Kunjunni Raja.—The Diwan fixed the first two days of the session for official business and the remaining days for non-official business. Under that rule, on these days, non-official business shall have precedence.

President.—The Diwan has also the power to alter the programme.

Mr. C. A. Kunjunni Raja.—There is no communication to the effect that the Diwan had altered the days.

President.—Not that it is altered, but only some items of Government business have been put in.

Mr. C. A. Kunjunni Raja.—If there is an order of the Diwan that the days have been altered, then my point of order will not stand. If the days have not been altered, the non-official business shall have precedence, and even the Diwan has no power to change it.

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President.—There is no alteration of days. The days are there. But to-day is a day set apart for non-official business, and certain items of Government business have been put in; that is all. You say that this is a non-official day, and non-official business must be given precedence. The question is whether such an allotment has been made, and whether it is exclusively devoted to non-official business, and whether no official business of any kind can be transacted.

Mr. C. A. Kunjunni Raja—If there is both official and non-official business on those days allotted for non-official business, the non-official business must be given precedence. These supplementary grants should come in only after non-official business. They should not have precedence. That is my point of order.

President.—What is that Standing Order? How does it stand in the Standing Order? Mr. Achyuta Menon, you must help us.

Mr. V. K. Kochunni Menon.—The Diwan " may from time to time alter such allotment". That was done.

Mr. C. A. Kunjunni Raja.—The Diwan has not altered the days. The Standing Order gives power to the Diwan only to alter the days.

President.—The Diwan in the beginning allotted certain days for official business and certain days for non-official business. It is open to him, from time to time, to alter such allotment. To-day is a non-official day. The Diwan wants to bring in some Government business. It is open to him to do so. The Standing Order permits that; so that the question is whether the Diwan has done it.

Mr. T. K. Krishna Menon.—The printed agenda shows that the Diwan has altered it. Of the two days allotted for Government business, the time actually taken up by the Government is only about 5 minutes, and the rest of the time was taken up for non-official business.

Mr. C. A. Kunjunni Raja.—It is not the amount of time. It is the number of days. On Friday too there was some Government business. The Finance Member has placed on the table his statement. That is Government business. It is not competent to the Diwan to change the order of business. The wording is " non-official business shall have precednce."

President.—Two things are granted. It is in the power of the Diwan to a allot the number of days necessary for non-official business. It is also open to him to alter that allotment from time to time. The question is whether, in the present case he has so altered. The statement of business for the day which has been circulated among the Members shows a different allotment. The question is whether the Diwan has sanctioned that.

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The Diwan's sanction is presumed. Otherwise such a thing would not have occurred.

Mr. C. A. Kunjunni Raja.—The Diwan can only alter the day and has no power to change the order of precedence. Further, so far as the agenda is concerned, it need not go to the Diwan. It is the Secretary who has to do the business under the Standing Orders.

President.—The Secretary would not put in anything in the agenda unless he gets the Diwan's sanction.

Mr. C. A. Kunjunni Raja.—The Diwan has already fixed the first 2 days for official business.

President.—He has altered it.

Mr. C. A. Kunjunni Raja.—The Secretary is not competent to change it, and you have already told the House that the Diwan has not altered the days.

President.—The President has to be consulted. The Secretary, in consultation with the President, has to arrange the business.

Mr. T. K. Krishna Menon.—When it is Government business, he must consult the Diwan.

Mr. C. A. Kunjunni Raja.—To-day is not a day for the Government. That is my main point. If it is a Government day, I won't object. Being a non-official day, non-official business *shall* have precedence.

President.—Of the two items of business, one, the motion regarding the Bill to amend the Cochin Court of Wards Regulation, was allowed. This was done with the consent of the House which had agreed to the moving of the motion on the first day of this sitting.

Mr. C. A. Kunjunni Raja.—Since it took only a few minutes, I did not want to raise a point of order then.

Mr. T. K. Krishna Menon.—The question of time comes now.

Mr. C. A. Kunjunni Raja.—Much non-official business is pending.

President.—The granting of "Supplementary Grants" is also an important business. You wanted to say something, Mr. Mathew.

Reasons for disallowing Bills, Resolutions, etc.

Mr. K. T. Mathew.—With regard to the allowing of Bills, resolutions and questions, there are certain prohibitive sections in the Council Regulation, Rules and Standing Orders. If the Bills, resolutions and questions that we submit do not come under the prohibitive section, they should be allowed by the President.

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